Maryland.

REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTORS,

OF THE

MARYLAND PENITENTIARY,

MADE TO THE EXECUTIVE,

AND

Communicated by His Excellency, Governor Kent, to the Legislature, at December Session, 1828.

Baltimore:

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1829.

REPORT.

MARYLAND PENITENTIARY,
Baltimore, 23d Dec. 1828.

To His Excellency, Joseph Kent, Governor of Maryland.

SIR,

In compliance with the law ordering the same, I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency the enclosed annual abstract of the proceedings of the Maryland Penitentiary.

In offering the congratulations of the board, on the continued prosperity of an institution so important to the preservation of good order in our state, I deem it my duty to press upon your excellency, and through you upon the Legislature, the expediency of such extension of the powers of the board, as experience has demonstrated to be essentially necessary to the perfection of the system now established.

I allude to such changes in the provisions of the law as will enable the Directors to apportion the salaries of the officers according to their merit and the actual

value of their services. As the law now stands, the intelligence, mechanical skill and integrity, which are required from those entrusted with the supervision of the various departments in the yard, are reduced to the same level with the wall-guards, from whom nothing more is desired than a vigilant eye and a steady and faithful hand.

There are now employed in this capacity, individuals, whose loss, we apprehend, would be felt most seriously by the institution; one or two of them actually perform the duties heretofore divided between two keepers, and perform them better; and yet their salary is limited by the law to the amount received by the least deserving among the whole number of this class.

By a reference to the report from the committee of the board, appointed for the purpose of examining the condition of similar institutions in neighbouring states, it will be seen that the scale of compensation to officers generally, is graduated upon the principle desired by this board.

Under the conviction that the change proposed, is of the utmost importance to the promotion of the interests of the institution, I trust to be excused for thus urging the subject upon the notice of your excellency, and soliciting from you, as ex-officio president of the board, such recommendation to the Legislature in favor of the measure, as may by you be deemed advisable.

I am with due respect,

Your excellency's most obd't. serv't.

(Signed,) WM. M'DONALD,

President of, and by order of the Board of Directors.

To the Board of Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary.

The Committee of Superintendance present to the Board of Directors, the annual abstract of the proceedings of the Maryland Penitentiary to the 30th ult., and direct the attention of the board to the account of profit and loss, for an exhibit of the gain by the several departments during the past year.

It will be seen, that for the greater part, they have yielded profits proportionate to the number of convicts employed in them respectively, and equal in ratio to the amounts produced by them during the year ending 30th November, 1827.

The smallness of the gain by the comb-making department, is owing in part to the very limited degree to which it was necessary to reduce its operations, in consequence of an unusual great scarcity of horns, and in part to the disadvantage of contending against the patent machinery now generally made use of.

As these inconveniences have lately ceased to exist, that branch has been increased to its original extent, and in future, will be equally profitable with the other departments.

The loss by the hatting department, is to be attributed entirely to reduction in the price of hats since the taking of the last inventory. That business having, at the same time, been suspended, with a view to its final total abandonment, in case of a continued want of support.

The female department, under the direction of its worthy and attentive matron, has produced a nett gain of $1,335 71, derived from the proceeds of its labour for the weaving and other departments; proving in a satisfactory manner, that convict females, under the government of one of their own sex, may not only be as well disciplined as males, but that their labour may be so directed as to be equally profitable. A truth that is as yet unknown in any other than the Maryland Penitentiary.

The gain by the several departments, exclusive of the expense for the support of the convicts, has been $21,427 38, but is reduced by the payment of the salaries of officers, and the instalment on the loan of 1822, and interest on that and the loan of 1828, to $9,804 16,—the nett gain of the year.

The active capital now stands at $76,927 06, and will, in the opinion of the Committee, suffice to maintain the present prosperous condition of the institution without further aid on the part of the Legislature.

Although the Legislature, at its last session, authorized an additional loan of $8000, to be appropriated to the completion of the new building, and to the purchase of a lot north of the wall to be used as a yard for the sawing of stone, the Committee believing it probable that those expenses could be defrayed without embarrassment from the funds of the house, advised the treasurer to refrain from taking up the loan until he might be especially requested to do so.

The Committee have already purchased and paid for a lot sufficiently large for a stone yard, amounting to $1850, and as the cost of the building, exclusive of the charge for the labour of convicts, will not much exceed the amount of the loan, they still advise a dependence for every further expense on the resources of the Institution.

The quality of the goods manufactured, continues to be acknowledged as unrivalled, and their sale is in consequence sure and extensive.

To have paid during a year, the whole expense of supporting three hundred and seventeen criminals, amounting, for provision, clothing, fuel, and other incidental expenses, to $18,796 52, besides $8,100 86 for the salaries of officers, and $3,522 36, on account of loans, and have realized a *nett gain* of $9,804 16, is a result that the warmest advocates of the Penitentiary System would not, a few years since, have ventured to predict, under any arrangements that could have been proposed. Yet the practical efforts of the directors and

officers of the Maryland Penitentiary, have not only established the fact, but have planned such a system of regulations, as renders almost certain, the attainment of similar results in future.

As relates to the police regulations, the committee can only remark, that in so far as they are calculated to prevent the extension of immorality, they have not, during the past year, failed in their object. The younger of the prisoners have been carefully kept apart from the older and more depraved, and the latter have been classified in such manner, in their sleeping apartments, as to separate the well-disposed from the vicious and incorrigible. The Sabbath religious exercises have been performed with zeal and ability, by appointments from the Methodist church in the morning, and by volunteer ministers of other sects, occasionally, in the afternoon. By means of these regulations, doubtless, much corruption has been obviated ; but, cases of positive reformation or improvement of morals, must be admitted to be of rare occurrence, owing to the ill effects of the familiar intercourse which the present system cannot prevent.

The new wing, intended for solitary confinement at night, will afford the best and only means of preventing the corruption of morals consequent upon the mingling of convicts in cells.

Other serious objections to the present system exist in the too great freedom of intercourse permitted to convicts while at labour. This, it will be necessary to prohibit, under regulations such as have been found effective in other prisons, and the committee join their recommendations to those of the late committee appointed by the board to collect information on the subject, for the adoption of such as will be found suggested in their report, and which are derived from the excellent discipline of the prisons at Auburn and Sing Sing.

The committee would further press upon the board, the expediency of establishing a general Sunday School after the

model of that at the Auburn prison. There is no doubt that such an institution might be formed, and that it would be undertaken with pleasure by any one of the religious associations of the city.

The committee cannot forbear congratulating the board and the public generally, on the advances already made in the state of Maryland, towards the perfection of a system that has so long and seriously occupied the public attention; a system that, from the many abuses to which, when ill understood, it gave birth, was believed inadequate as a punishment, and calculated rather to foster than eradicate the propensity to crime.

The spirit of philanthropy, to which Penitentiaries owe their establishment, discovered with regret in the infancy of their institution, that the removal of a public nuisance from the highways and fortifications to a state prison, served only to combine the various materials of infamy into a mass, whose sounder parts early and inevitably caught the infection of the worst, and sought, rather than avoided, an equal contamination.

Religious instructions were inculcated, and moral and religious books were distributed among the convicts. The former were but too often ridiculed in the absence of the preceptor, and the latter were misused or neglected. Classification was instituted, but, while there was no incentive to good conduct but distinction for it, failed of producing emulation. To conciliate them by enlisting their interests, daily tasks were prescribed, and a compensation was made for the labour performed beyond them, and pardons were promised to those who might distinguish themselves for good conduct. These changes effected a considerable improvement of the system, and produced in many convicts, at least a partial amendment, with a view to a remission of their sentence. But the evils of association at night were too inherent in the system to be remedied by any regulations, and a separation by imprisonment in solitary cells was at length resorted to, and with much success. The plan, however, remained insufficient to an entire reformation of morals, until, has as been exemplified in

the State Prisons of New-York, a total restriction of intercourse by day as well as at night, could be brought into effect. The experience of those prisons has afforded numerous instances of reformation to prove, that their discipline combines all the advantages ever expected from the system, and it is, perhaps, as perfect as prison discipline can, or need be. Their principal regulations are few and simple;—tending, all, to the maintenance of silence among the convicts, and, indirectly, through this medium, to the preservation of order, security, and subordination. Their discipline now serves as a model to all new prisons, and is well worthy the imitation of those of the old, that can possibly be adapted to its reception.

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. SHEPPARD,

GEO. KEYSER,

Committee of Superintendence.

December 23d, 1828.

To the Board of Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary.

The committee appointed by the Board of Directors to make the necessary provisions for, and to superintend the erection of the new building, submit to the board the following report of their proceedings:

That, in compliance with the law providing for the erection of an additional wing, they advertized for proposals for the supply of the various building materials as they were required, and selected such offers as were made upon terms, the most advantageous to the interests of the state. They have inspected, personally, the erection of the building, during its gradual progression, and are able to assure the board, that every means, calculated to insure its durability and the security of the cells, has been adopted.

Confiding in the known talents of the architect, Mr. Wm. F. Small, the general arrangement of the building has been

submitted to his direction, and the committee are satisfied that he has rendered entire justice, both in the plan and in his attentions to the labour of the workmen.

The great mass of the work has already been performed, and externally, the building is finished. The plaistering of the interior is the principal of what is wanting, to render the building complete;—the doors, fixtures for the galaries, &c. being already prepared to be applied when the plaisterers, who are now at work, shall have finished.

The cost of the building, inclusive of the labour of prisoners has been $36,086 42. The labour of the prisoners amounts, in all, to $6071 50, of which $5216 25 belongs to the year ending 30th November.

The various materials and workmanship, (excepting a lot of stone, amounting to about five hundred dollars, and the slating of the roof,) have been paid for, and amount to twenty-nine thousand one hundred and fourteen dollars and 92 cents, so that the total of actual expenditure on the completion of the building, will have exceeded but in an inconsiderable degree, the amount of the loan.

The plan suggested by the Rev. Mr. Dwight, of substituting for floors in the upper stories, small galaries before each range of cells, and which was adopted by the board at an early stage of the building, possesses many obvious advantages over the original design. The galaries, by leaving a considerable vacancy in the centre of the hall extending to the roof, will enable the guard in the lower story, to observe, at the same time, the door of every cell; by this means, rendering the escape of any convict impossible. Light and heat may be applied with a considerable saving of expense, and ventilation will encounter no obstruction.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE KEYSER,
THOS. SHEPPARD,
JAMES MOSHER,
} *Building Committee.*

December 23d, 1828.

(No. 1.)

ABSTRACT OF PRISONERS,

Received into the MARYLAND PENITENTIARY, from the 1st December, 1827 to the 30th November, 1828, inclusive.

CRIMES.	WHITES.		BLACKS.		AMERICANS.						FOREIGNERS.			COUNTIES WHERE CONVICTED.														
	Males.	*Females.*	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Maryland.*	*Pennsylvania.*	*Delaware.*	*Massachusetts.*	*Virginia.*	*Dist. Columbia.*	*Brazil.*	*England.*	*Ireland.*	*Baltimore.*	*Harford.*	*Washington.*	*Ann Arundel.*	*Somerset.*	*Talbot.*	*Queen Anne.*	*Worcester.*	*Cecil.*	*Caroline.*	*Calvert.*	*Dorchester.*	*Montgomery.*	*Kent.*	*St. Marys.*	*Frederick.*
Felony,	14		41	10	51	4	12	1	1	1	1	3	1	61	12	1												1
Stealing,	10		11	1	15	3	12		2					1		5	2	1	1	4	1	1	1	2	1			2
Murder,	1				1									1														
Murder in the second degree,			1		1									1														
Assault with intent to kill,	2				2											1												1
Arson,			1		1																				1			
Kidnapping,	1				1																			1				
Receiving stolen goods,	1		1		1							1			1											1		
Harboring a runaway slave,				1	1																						1	
Enticing a slave to runaway,	1						1												1									
Passing counterfeit money,	1					1										1												
Forgery,	1								1							1												
	32		55	12	74	8	5	1	4	1	1	4	1	64	3	9	2	1	2	4	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	4
	99				95						6			99														
					99																							

JOSEPH OWENS, *Keeper.*
JAMES M'EVOY, *Book Keeper.*

(No. 2.)

ABSTRACT OF PRISONERS,

Received into the Maryland Penitentiary from 1st December 1827, to the 30th November 1828, inclusive.

Of 99 prisoners received,	
42	were for 2 years,
7	were for 3 years,
7	were for 4 years,
15	were for 5 years,
12	were for 6 years,
4	were for 7 years,
3	were for 8 years,
1	was for 9 years,
5	were for 10 years,
2	were for 15 years,
1	was for 24 years,
99	

Of 74 natives of Maryland, there were born in	
Baltimore County,	31
Washington,	3
Queen Anns,	4
Somerset,	1
Talbot,	7
Prince Georges,	2
Harford,	4
Kent,	3
Caroline,	3
Ann Arundel,	4
Montgomery,	2
St. Marys,	3
Dorchester,	2
Frederick,	2
Worcester,	1
Calvert,	2
	74

PRISONERS DISCHARGED.

51 their time of servitude having expired.
20 by pardon.
4 died.

75

305 prisoners remained in the Penitentiary 30th November, 1827.
99 were received from 1st Dec. 1827 to 30th Nov. 1828, inclusive

404
75

329 remaining in the Penitentiary 30th November, 1828.

JOSEPH OWENS, Keeper.
JAMES M'TVOY, Book Keeper.

(No. 3.)

INVENTORY of the Goods on hand belonging to the Maryland Penitentiary.

Comb Making Account.		
2000 Spanish and other Horns	$320 00	
4000 Horn Tips and sundry materials	589 75	
Implements and Furniture	865 78	
		$1,775 53
Cordwaining Account.		
778 pair Shoes, coarse and fine	1,346 60	
Materials on hand	251 83	
Implements and Furniture	312 85	
		1,911 28
Sawing Account.		
1 set Blocks, Teackle and Fall	50 00	
20 Saws—various sizes and 25 pairs Saw Heads and Beams	100 00	
Sundry other Implements	227 62	
		377 62
Smithing Account.		
Sundry Manufactured Goods	140 00	
Implements and Furniture	217 00	
		357 00
Dying Account.		
363 lbs. Indigo	635 25	
Sundry other Dye Stuffs	356 82	
Implements and Furniture	409 51	
		1,601 58
Weaving Account.		
79,444 yards Cloth—various	12,573 50	
Sundry Webs in looms and Yarn in shops and store	3,353 89	
Implements and Furniture	2,131 50	
		18,058 89
Hatting Account.		
7740 Wool Hats	3,563 00	
4063 lbs. Felt Wool, &c.	1,172 64	
Implements and Furniture	540 63	
		5,276 27
Amount carried forward		$29,358 17

Amount brought forward		$29,358 17
Carding and Spinning Account.		
Sundry materials of Wool, Yarn, Soft Soap, &c.	$295 37	
Implements and Furniture	198 23	
		493 60
Brush Making Account, or Carpenters' Shop.		
360 lbs. Bristles	288 00	
Implements and Furniture	301 42	
		589 42
Household Expense Account.		
Sundry articles of Furniture and Implements in the front house, in prison, tailors' and other shops, in the yard, in women's shops, &c.		2,838 48
Fuel Account.		
176 cords Oak Wood and hauling the same	616 00	
42 do. Pine do do.	105 00	
		721 00
Furniture and Bedding Account.		
6 Beds and Bedsteads in guard room @ $5 00	30 00	
11 pair Sheets @ 1 00	11 00	
9 Blankets @ 1 50	13 50	
3 do. @ 1 00	3 00	
6 double Coverlids @ 6 00	36 00	
6 single do. @ 4 00	24 00	
11 sets Beds, Bedsteads & Bedding in hospital	50 00	
175 Beds in prison and unused	262 50	
400 Blankets @ 0 60	240 00	
99 do. new @ 1 25	123 75	
13 single Beds in hospital cells	13 00	
431 do. Coverlids in prison and unused @ 2 50	1,077 50	
		1,884 25
Clothing Account.		
1294 yards Woollen and Cotton Cloths	500 22	
Sundry articles of Clothing—new and unused	801 47	
		1,301 69
Provision Account.		
Sundry lots of Flour, Molasses, Potatoes, &c.		629 97
		$37,816 60

DR. MARYLAND PENITENTIARY. CR.

To Montgomery County	$49 25	By Cash, for amount of Balance on hand	$612 10
To Prince Georges County	3 00	By Notes receivable, for amount of Notes on hand	25,378 72
To Talbot County	69 75	By Franklin Bank, for amount in deposit	7,896 79
To Lynch and Craft	483 81	By Store in town, for amount of goods, &c. on hand at store	11,069 81
To F. Lucas, Jr.	2 25	By Comb Making acct. for amount goods on hand as per inventory herewith	1,775 53
To Mummey and Meredith	53 67	By Cordwaining account, for amount do. do.	1,911 28
To Hopkins and Moore	238 37	By Sawing account, for amount do. do.	377 62
To Charles Ridgely, of Hampton	137 22	By Smithing account, for amount do. do.	357 00
To Kelly and Reside	21 77	By Dying account, for amount do. do.	1,601 58
To Rebecca Clackner	140 07	By Weaving account, for amount do. do.	18,058 89
To Treasury Department for amount drawn on account the late loan	24,000 00	By Hatting account, for amount do. do.	5,276 27
		By Carding & Spinning account, for amount do. do.	493 62
To stock account for amount the nett capital of the Institution	241,746 66	By Brush Making account, for amount do. do.	589 42
		By Household Expense acct. for amount do. do.	2,838 48
		By Furniture & Bedding acct. for amount do. do.	1,884 25
		By Clothing account, for amount do. do.	1,301 69
		By Fuel account, for amount do. do.	721 00
		By Provision account, for amount do. do.	629 97
		By David Burke, for amount due by him	95 78
		By John Stevenson, for do. do.	17 31
		By Conn & M'Elderry, for do. do.	20 42
		By C. Dorsey, for do. do.	28 50
		By H. M'Elderry, for do. do.	32 96
		By Edward Gray, for do. do.	5 28
		By Suspense of, for balance	195 68
		By T. Mummey, for do. do.	108 37
		By William Hickley, for do. do.	28 66
		By William Johnson, for do. do.	9 29
		By J. Daugherty, for do. do.	108 73
		By A. Nisbet, for do. do.	40 37
		By Wm. J. Mead, for do. do.	43 28
		By Lot and Improvements, for amount the lot and buildings thereon	147,355 75
		By New Building, for amount materials purchased and labor performed	36,086 42
	$266,945 82		$266,945 82

THOS. SHEPPARD, } *Committee of*
GEO. KEYSER, } *Superintendence.*
JAMES M'EVOY, *Clerk.*

(No. 5.)

DR. *PROFIT AND LOSS.* CR.

To Hatting account, for loss on this account - -	$660 97	By Admittance account, for gain by receipts for admission	$84 00
To Household expense acct. do. do. - - -	5,375 96	By Discount account, for gain by discount on purchases	1,185 85
To do. paid amount the salaries of the Agent, Clerk, Physician and Deputy Keepers, since January last	6,800 86	By Comb Making account, for gain on this account	196 93
To Commission account, paid amount the Principal Keeper's salary in the year - - - - - - - -	1,300 00	By Cordwaining account, for do. do.	1,349 70
To Interest account, for amount interest paid on account State loans, in the year - - - - - -	2,522 36	By Sawing account, for do. do.	1,050 47
To George Mackubin, for amount instalment on loan of 1822 - - - - - - - - - - -	1,000 00	By Smithing account, for do. do.	306 98
To Stock account, for balance—being the amount of the nett gain of the year - - - - - - -	9,804 16	By Dying account, for do. do.	2,195 07
		By Weaving account, for do. do.	10,583 31
		By Carding & Spinning acct. for do. do.	1,335 71
		By Prisoners generally, for do. on their collective accounts - - - - - - - - -	9,176 29
	$27,464 31		$27,464 31

THOS. SHEPPARD, } *Committee of*
GEO. KEYSER, } *Superintendence.*
JAMES M'EVOY, *Clerk.*